

Rule changes for the Rules for the conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs

DEFINITION OF TERMS

8. (k) **Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare**, inclusive of domesticated and replica variants of the above species. (Refer also to Rule No.7).

8. (k) **Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, ~~Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare~~**, inclusive of domesticated and replica variants of the above species. (Refer also to Rule No.7).

Rationale:

Grouse and Ptarmigan are items of game that cannot be sourced therefore unable to be used as cold game in Australia.

Rule 8 (k) **Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare**, inclusive of domesticated variants of the above species. (Refer also to Rule No.7)

Rule 8 (K) **Game – Definition of – Quail, Duck, Cold Pigeons, Partridge, ~~Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare~~**, which have been humanely euthanised according to relevant State regulations.. Game may include domesticated or replica variants of the above. No live game can be used. (Refer also to Rule No 7.)

Rationale:

Clarifies that live game is not used.

Pigeons and rabbits are feral non-native species that currently make up more than 90% of game currently used in retrieving trials. They are typically obtained from trappers, or sometime in the case of pigeons, culls from racing pigeon lofts. They are destined to be euthanised regardless as to whether or not they would be sourced to be used in retrieving trials. This change ensures that no native game or exotic game is used.

Remove Grouse and Ptarmigan as items of game as they cannot be sourced used as cold game in Australia.

8. (p) **Hard Mouth** – A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable marking or damage. In the event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

Note: 1. Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

8. (p) **Hard Mouth – Cold Game:** A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. In the

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8f

event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

Note: 1. Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

Replica game: A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is seen unmistakable evidence of the dog mouthing and excessive rolling of the item of AG on the return the handler. The penalty for hard mouth is the maximum penalty on the score sheet.

Rationale:

There has to be a different definition of hard mouth for RG as there is no ability to determine the degree of hard mouth as the Judge would be unable to determine as to whether or not there has been deliberate squeezing of the game so bones may be broken or the flesh badly ripped. Penalty for RG hard-mouth can only be the maximum deduction of 10 points.

Retrieves

11. (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.
- (b) Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.
- (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.
- (b) Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

Note: Replica game shall not be used in "Wounded" retrieves

Rationale:

A drag scent cannot be established using RG

23. **Through or Amongst Decoy Retrieves.** No less than six decoys, constructed of plastic or painted wood, shall be used. The decoys should be anchored individually. Any dog that picks up a decoy and does not immediately release it without command shall be marked with No Score. A dog which becomes entangled in the strings and attempts to break free shall not be penalised.
23. **Through or Amongst Decoy Retrieves.** No less than six decoys, constructed of plastic or painted wood, shall be used. The decoys should be anchored individually. Any dog that picks up a decoy and does not immediately release it without command shall be marked with No Score. A dog which becomes entangled in the strings and attempts to break free shall not be penalised.

Note: Replica game shall not be used in "through or amongst Decoy" retrieves.

Rationale"

Dogs should not be disadvantaged by not being able to differentiate between Replica game and decoys (refer 94 – “.....the dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys....”)

28. On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards. It should be possible, at least in theory, for a dog to find a well planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. The test should be planned so that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall, as a Blind Find Retrieve is a test of control and a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control

28. On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards–It should be possible , at least in theory for a well trained dog should be able to find a well planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. The test should be planned so that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall, as a Blind Find Retrieve can be a test of control and a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control. A dog that holds the initial line provided by the handler all the way to the bird has demonstrated ultimate control. If further handling is required then points should be deducted based on where they are given and whether they are obeyed.

Rationale:

Rule No 1 stipulates what our trials are all about- and that is hunting.

The current rule can be interpreted in totally contradictory ways, and (with Rule 1 foremost in your mind) allows for judge to place “control” as a priority, not the act of a gundog using its attributes to find an item of game on the instructions of its handler. Ultimate control should be rewarded on the score sheet before the ability of a dog to respond to a whistle. In a hunting situation, other hunters do not want to listen to a shooter blowing whistles whilst they are waiting on game to be attracted to their decoys.

34. Registered (Main and Limited) desexed Gundogs shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.

Registered (Main and Limited) Gundogs shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.

Associate Registered Gundogs who have achieved an Open Retrieving Ability (ORA) title shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials up to and including Restricted Stakes.

Rationale:

Remove the word – Desexed. Not required a Gundog is a Gundog whether it is entire or desexed. Once a dog has achieved its ORA title there are no further opportunities for the dog and handler to continue and achieve titles in RATG. The dogs have shown by obtaining the title that they have the ability to retrieve and this change will give dogs and handlers the opportunity to continue further in the discipline of retrieving.

RATG was established to encourage people to enter retrieving trials and giving eligibility to Associate Registered Gundogs allowed those handlers without papers to enter. The thought was that if they were successful with an Associate Registered dog their next dog would be a pedigree Gundog. A lot of dogs competing are of a young age and it could be a number of years before they are ready for another dog. We should be looking to encourage participants to continue with their Gundogs.

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8f

Definition of Terms

8 (b) Associate Gundog – a variety accepted by a Member Body as a Gundog

New Definition required if change to Rule 34 accepted

Retrieving Stakes and Test Eligibility

New

36. A trial committee may elect to conduct any trial using cold or replica game but not a mix of the two. The same types of cold game or replica game must be used for each dog completing the retrieves comprising a Stake.

****Should this rule be accepted subsequent numbers will have to be increased to reflect the numbering of this new rule****

37. Novice Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won five (5) Novice Stakes or any other Stake (Beginners' Tests are excluded) or have gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. The only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve. A "Walk-Up" is not permitted in a Novice Stake.

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Rationale:

There appears to be a propensity for Novice judges to put a "test of steadiness" in the stake. The rule clearly states that the only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve.

The definition of a Single Mark Retrieve is a retrieve where only one object of game is cast and is to be retrieved, and as further defined in Rule 26. There is no mention of "a test of steadiness", by including this additional sentence it clearly states the parameters for a Novice Stake.

46. Retrieving Trial Champions are eligible only for Championship and All Age Stakes

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Rationale:

Not required eligibility for Novice and Restricted is clearly described which precludes Retrieving Trial Champions which by default means that they are only eligible for All Age Stakes and Championships

PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING TRIALS

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8f

92. All game must be inspected by the Judge or his authorised delegate immediately the handler completes the Run and the handler must be advised by the Judge of any penalty made for Hard Mouth.

92. All cold game must be inspected by the Judge or his authorised delegate immediately the handler completes the Run and the handler must be advised by the Judge of any penalty made for Hard Mouth.

If 'Replica game is used the handler must be advised by the Judge of any penalty made for Hard Mouth.

ALLOCATION OF POINTS

94. The principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)

94. Points shall be allocated for each Retrieve on the following basis:

<u>Steadiness, obedience and walking to heel.</u>	<u>10 Points</u>
<u>Style, eagerness and action</u>	<u>10 Points</u>
<u>Retrieving</u>	<u>45 Points for each item of game retrieved</u>

For each retrieve the principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. 45 Points shall be allocated for each item of game retrieved (See Judging Sheet.)

For the Retrieving Trial Judging Sheet

In the cell for – Retrieving 45, add Retrieving 45 points for each item of game retrieved

Rationale:

All deductions below the line and the 45 points available to a judge are relative to a single retrieve i.e the negative scores below the line are relative to the value of one retrieve. Therefore deducting more points, on each leg, below the line on a multiple retrieves with only a total of 45 points for retrieves has a huge effect on the final outcome of the score, importantly this proposal maintains the relationship between the below line deductions and the 45 points for a retrieve.

Increasing the retrieving component to 45 points for each item of game retrieved will give the judge more scope to Judge the retrieve component of a run and allow a better assessment of a dog's performance, it will also will give clarity to competitors on the breakdown of their scores.

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8f

- one item of game retrieved- 45 Points
 - two items of game retrieved - 45 points for each item of game = 90 points
- three items of game retrieved – 45 points for each item of game retrieved = 135 points

Passed

96. Points to be awarded;
- (a) **National Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded eighteen (18) points, Second place twelve (12) points and Third place six (6) points.
 - (b) **Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded twelve (12) points, second place six (6) points.
 - (c) **All Age Stakes** – First place will be awarded six (6) points.
96. Points to be awarded for trials conducted on Cold/Real game:
- (a) **National Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded eighteen (18) points, Second place twelve (12) points and Third place six (6) points.
 - (b) **Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded twelve (12) points, second place six (6) points.
 - (c) **All Age Stakes** – First place will be awarded six (6) points
97. On completion of the Trial the Judge shall complete and sign a Judge's Certificate or official catalogue of the event indicating:
- (a) Placegetters. Only dogs worthy of the award of Championship points may be shown as first, second or third placegetters in Stakes carrying Championship points.
 - (b) Awards of Certificates of Merit, Diploma of Merit and Qualifying Certificates (if any).
97. On completion of the Trial the Judge shall complete and sign a Judge's Certificate or official catalogue of the event indicating:
- (a) Placegetters. Only dogs worthy of the award of Championship points may be shown as first, second or third placegetters in Stakes carrying Championship points. Dogs that have completed a stake where Replica or Artificial game was used can only be shown as placegetters, but no Championship points will be awarded.
 - (b) Awards of Certificates of Merit, Diploma of Merit and Qualifying Certificates (if any).
98. No points will be allotted towards Championship status unless the Trial is open to all recognised breeds of Gundogs.

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8f

98. No points will be allotted towards Championship status unless the Trial is conducted on Cold/Real game only and open to all recognised breeds of Gundogs.

Rationale for 96, 97 and 98:

At the Dogs Australia General meeting and board meeting conducted in Melbourne on the 22nd and 23rd of October 2023 a rule change to 8K of the Retrieving rules for Gundogs was passed. This rule now states that replica game can be used from 1/1/2024.

With the introduction of this dogs would now be able to obtain Retrieving Championship (RTCH) titles on replica game. This is away from the spirit of Retrieving trials and has created a major drift as Australia would be the only country within the World (FCI inclusive) that would have any Retrieving/Field title obtained under these conditions. There are several important facets that cannot be assessed when using Replica/Artificial game.

All countries that use replica/artificial game only award placing and no accreditation for inclusion onto pedigrees. These events are considered as TESTs only.

Breeders of group 3 / FCI group 8 dogs would now be heavily affected by this decision. Internationally purchasing of Dogs or Semen from titled dogs (retrieving) will now be avoided as there will no distinction between these dogs obtaining titles on Cold/Real game and replica/Artificial. The reversal is also likely when attempting to purchase, international sellers are interested in their lines being able to obtain titles that enhance the breed.

If these rules are altered it will in no way affect the decision of affiliates to run trials as replica game would still be able to be used, but no championship points would be awarded.

ALLOCATION OF POINTS

108. A Retrieving Trial Championship Certificate may be awarded to any dog winning a Championship Stake provided it has completed all retrieves.

Rule to be deleted.

Rationale:

Rule 109 in combination with rule 96 makes this rule obsolete.

109. The title of Retrieving Trial Champion may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

Proposed Rule 109. The title of Retrieving Trial Champion may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96 provided that at least 6 points have been awarded on cold game.

Rationale:

This change ensures that no dog can become a Retrieving Trial Champion unless it has been tested on feather or fur for Hard Mouth.

Change to the Rule book

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8f

Include a brief reference list of rule changes to the front of the rule book after the Revised Date for quick reference to the current rule changes.

Example - Revised 2024 changes to the rules
Rule 8k – Game
Rule 17 – Double Fall Retrieve
Rule 94 – Allocation of points
Etc

New Rule

Proposed Rule Change Introduce Hunt Test competition for artificial game

Proposed Change is to introduce a new Retrieving Competition called HUNT TEST using artificial game, the new HT rules will have modified rules using the current Retrieving Trial rules as the model.

Rationale:

Dogs Australia Executive has recently endorsed the inclusion of **Artificial Game** (AG) or variants, along with the Native species which are now included in the Retrieving Trial rules. This is not inclusive. It is however possibly the most significant rule change in the history of dog trialling in Australia.

The creation and introduction of a new retrieving competition for artificial game called HUNT TEST would alleviate any confusion between an event using real game (Retrieving Trial) and event using artificial game (HUNT Test), the two different events will have their own rules and will clearly define the differences between Titles, Points, Hard Mouth, Drags, etc. for example RT Champion, HT Champion.

The attached document presents a logical and practical path forward for the introduction of artificial game into our Retrieving Trials, and provides evidence and supports the introduction of a Hunt Test competition.

Attached document – Introduction of AG to RT 20231202 V1

APPENDICES TO RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF RETRIEVING TRIALS FOR GUNDOGS

That the already written Artificial Game Rules (2018/19) or the new discipline, Hunt Test be added to the Rules for the conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs as an appendix.

Rationale:

The rules for trials using artificial game be incorporated as an appendix to the existing rules to enable clubs, judges and competitors to work from one document. This would also keep the rules and required rule changes to occur at the same time.

Introduction of Artificial Game into Retrieving Trials 2023

Overview

Dogs Australia Executive has recently endorsed the inclusion of **Artificial Game** (AG) or variants, along with the Native species which are now included in the Retrieving Trial rules. This is not inclusive. It is however possibly the most significant rule change in the history of dog trialling in Australia.

Our challenge prior to the 2024 season taking place is to come up with a viable working solution for the year to allow Retrieving Trials to continue and where no State is disadvantaged irrespective of what type of game is used.

The amendment to the rules is in rule – 8K Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare, inclusive of domesticated or replica variants of the above species. (Amended 10/23, 5.21 – effective 01/01/24) (Refer also to Rule No.7) Rule No.7 The Shooting, Game Laws and Firearms Legislation of each State or Territory must be observed and will govern the conduct of all Trials in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of each State or Territory Member Body as approved by the ANKC Ltd. – Note - There has been no change to the wording of this rule.

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to present a logical and practical path forward for the introduction for the use of artificial game into our sport. A review process has been undertaken and reviewed by a number of triallers, this review looked at what we do well and what needs improving as well as understanding threats and weaknesses within our sport, these issues are presented in the following pages.

Summary

From the following review, the most obvious change to prevent confusion and create clarity around rules for retrieving trials with artificial game is to develop a new competition (HUNT TEST), with a modified set of rules using the current retrieving trial rules as a model. (See recommendation document)

A number of issues were clearly identified in the following pages and have been ranked as a priority of importance, a summary of the priority 1 items are listed below.

- 1. Develop and define two competitions and rules with distinctively different names
1 Retrieving Trial existing rules with use of real game.
2 Hunt Test with rules around use of artificial game.***
- 2. Improve communications with Dogs Australia through National and State RAFT committees***
- 3. Engage with likeminded organisations to understand their strengths and how we may improve***

Introduction of Artificial Game into Retrieving Trials 2023

TOWS

Threats (External)	Opportunities (External)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Strengths (Internal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public perception the sport does not fit community expectations of use of game may close us down in the future • Other organisations already use AG they have an opportunity to overtake sport, don't treat them like enemies • Clubs do not continue with retrieving trials • Our sport shuts down due to external pressures • DA implements further rule changes not allowing the use of real game • Our sport is not well supported by DA or its State affiliates • Retrieving is only a small part of Dogs Aus and Affiliates businesses • The sport tends to attract the older generation from a previous culture • Expensive Hobby: Because of costs and travel involved, the majority of members are retired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce costs to clubs which would lead to cheaper entry fees • Don't need to purchase and manage game or game management equipment • Could advertise the sport publicly and attract broader sponsorship • An opportunity to attract more people into the sport • Rules need further review • Attract a younger generation by introducing Junior competitions • Prevent any confusion between RT and HT rules with Titles, Points, drags, hard mouth, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are reluctant to accept change • People are complacent • Sport is not well advertised • People are leaving the sport • Some people don't like handling dead game • Some clubs are struggling to run trials • The real impact of the current rule change is unknown • Rule change process is cumbersome • Nationally there is differing views on the use of AG • Communication from NRAFT/RAFT is poor • There are strong and emotive views between people that the use of real game in RT should continue vs use of AG • Social media creates an awful view of what has just occurred in the way the rule change was delivered • Small representation in members of DA compared to other dogs sports • Older generation with not a lot of new members joining • Staying true to the breed of Gundogs formal recognition of titles is assessed by picking up real game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sport which was established in the mid-1950s • The Clubs are well managed • There are good supportive people in the sport • Most people have a positive attitude to the sport • The clubs can manage change. • Clubs are still able to use game and have the option to use artificial game • Easy transition using the same equipment to go from type of game to AG • Strong cohort of sensible Senior people from a broad walk of life, that recognise changes are imminent for the sport to survive. • Close community of people willing to work together to ensure sport survives

Introduction of Artificial Game into Retrieving Trials 2023

IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

	<p style="text-align: center;">External Threats (T)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public perception of use of game may close us down. 2. Other organisations already use AG they have an opportunity to take over our sport. 3. Clubs do not continue with retrieving trials. 4. Our sport shuts down. 5. DA implements further rule changes not allowing the use of real game. 6. The sport is not well supported by DA or its State affiliates. 7. Retrieving is only a small part of Dogs Australia and their Affiliates businesses. 8. Perception the sport does not fit community expectations. 	<p style="text-align: center;">External Opportunities (O)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce costs to clubs which would lead to cheaper entry fees. 2. Don't need to purchase and manage game or game management equipment. 3. Could advertise the sport publicly and attract broader sponsorship 4. An opportunity to attract more people into the sport 5. Rules are currently under review 6. A more consolidated approach to incorporate a more PC model 7. Televised and media sponsorship, in particular the National competition
<p style="text-align: center;">Internal Strengths (S)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A sport is well established since the mid-1950s. 2. The Clubs are well managed. 3. There are good supportive people within the sport. 4. Most people have a positive attitude towards the sport. 5. The clubs can manage change. 6. Clubs are still able to use game and have the option to use artificial game. 	<p>ST - Strategies that use strengths to minimize threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure procedures are in place for clubs to manage game ✓ Engage with other organisations to understand their strengths and what we can improve ✓ Improve communications with DA through NR ✓ Relations with F&GA other enviro friendly conservation groups 	<p>SO - Strategies that use strengths to maximize ops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop and define two competitions and rules with distinctively different names e.g. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Retrieving Trial existing rules with use of real game. 2 Hunt Test with rules around use of AG. 3 Use the same model for both comps, exactly the same logistics and mechanics, less change and disruption. ✓ Understand what reductions will attract lower club costs

Introduction of Artificial Game into Retrieving Trials 2023

<p>Internal Weaknesses (W)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The definition of rules between the use of real game and artificial game is obscure 2. Confusion with application of Championship points and awards in and AG trial 3. People are reluctant to accept change. 4. People are complacent. 5. Sport is not well advertised 6. People are leaving the sport. 7. Some people don't like handling dead game. 8. Some clubs are struggling to run trials. 9. The real impact of the current rule change is unknown. 10. Rule change process is cumbersome. 11. Nationally there is differing views on the use of AG. 12. Communication from NRAFT/RAFT is poor. 13. There are strong and emotive views between people that the use of real game in RT should continue vs use of AG. 14. In correct use of social media no control mechanism in place 15. EX members no longer competing in trials, taking side swipes at the Executive 	<p>WT - Strategies that minimize weaknesses and avoid threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Develop and define two competitions and rules with distinctively different names e.g., 1 <u>Retrieving Trial</u> existing rules with use of real game.</i> ✓ <i>2 <u>Hunt Test</u> with rules around use of AG.</i> ✓ <i>Implementing two competitions would alleviate any confusion between a trial with real game or a trial with artificial game i.e. Titles, Points, drags, hard mouth</i> ✓ <i>Open and honest communication with stakeholders and the trialling community</i> ✓ <i>Develop and implement advertising processes</i> ✓ <i>Recognise the reasons why clubs struggle with running trials and take action</i> ✓ <i>Define the completion rules for HUNT TEST (use of Artificial game) using the current retrieving trial rules as a model.</i> ✓ <i>Better control of Social Media Platforms to enable a more positive attitude in taking the sport forward</i> ✓ <i>Better use of committees to distribute quickly new information to changes in the Sport</i> 	<p>WO - Strategies that minimize weaknesses by taking advantage of opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>The rules for this to take on this form are in place, it's a relatively simple fix, using a tried and proven method.</i> ✓ <i>Now the rule change has been implemented by DA we must take advantage of developing this further with workable viable solution that doesn't disadvantage anyone that is cost effective and assisting in preserving the Gun Dog breed.</i> ✓ <i>It is cost effective and a workable model which can be implemented very quickly satisfying DA endorsement</i> ✓ <i>Need to attract a younger group of committee members</i> ✓ <i>Acceptance of a new discipline that members feel comfortable with to take the sport forward</i>
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Introduction of Artificial Game into Retrieving Trials 2023

IDENTIFY CHANGE REQUIREMENTS

Internal (SW)	Priority 1-5	Do we need to Change If so, What?	External (TO)	Priority 1-5
There are strong and divisive views between people that the use of real game in RT should continue vs use of AG Confusion with application of Championship points and awards in and AG trial Acceptance of a new discipline that members feel comfortable with to take the sport forward	1	<p><i>Define two competitions with distinctly different names e.g.</i></p> <p><i>1 Retrieving Trial using the existing rules with use of real game.</i></p> <p><i>2 Hunt Test with modified rules around use of artificial game using the Retrieving Trial Rules as a model</i></p>		
The definition of rules between the use of real game and artificial game is obscure	1	Define the competition rules for HUNT TEST (use of Artificial game) using the current retrieving trial rules.		
Staying true to the breed of Gundogs formal recognition of titles is assessed by picking up real game Loss of recognition and credibility of losing gundog genetics due to not picking up real game	1	Engage to educate DA Executive with positive outlook on the sport and the global importance of the gundog breeds and disciplines.		
The sport tends to attract the older generation from a previous culture	3	Need to attract younger culture		
		Engage with likeminded organisations to understand their strengths and how we may improve into the future	Other organisations already use AG they have an opportunity to overtake sport	1
		To continue with "real game" develop procedures to manage the collecting, storing, usage and disposal of game	Public perception of use of game may close us down	3